

NEWSLETTER

The Official Bulletin of Caritas Turkey



NATIONAL OFFICE

Caritas Turkey is focusing on its ongoing reorganization and institutional development. Over the last month, a first draft of the new statute of Caritas Turkey has been prepared thanks to the support of Caritas Internationalis, Caritas Italiana, and local lawyers and experts. In the coming months it will be subjected to further analysis and legal evaluations until approval by the Turkish Episcopal Conference (CET). The aim is to create a single legal entity which embodies the national and diocesan levels. The roles of the four offices, one at national and 3 at diocesan level, have been better defined in order to strengthen the effectiveness and cohesion of the entire Caritas Turkey.

The communication and coordination mechanism, drafted in the past few months, has been completed and implemented at all levels. It includes both internal and external (between managers and staff, as well as between national and diocesan offices) mechanisms. In particular, the coordination and the dialogue among the 4 offices has been strengthened through the organization of three zoom meetings (18th, 21st and 28th May). During these meetings, the outputs of the April capacity building workshop have been discussed and the Mission and Vision of Caritas Turkey formally adopted. Specific work was done to present, adapt and adopt the Code of Conduct (activity facilitated by Charel Kriepe, Caritas Europe Humanitarian and Safeguarding officer).

To continue the harmonization effort, a new software for financial management "MIKRO" has been purchased and will be set-up in every diocesan office in order to facilitate a common accounting and reporting system. An accountant from each office will participate in a training session.

Another essential step is the preparation of Partner Meeting that will be held virtually the 30th to 31st August 2021.



ISTANBUL DIOCESAN OFFICE

In May Istanbul Diocesan Office of Caritas Turkey has continued providing assistance to vulnerable refugee and non-refugee people through ongoing CEI Project. Even though there was the curfew, Istanbul office has continued giving counselling through phone and after the curfew through visits in our office on every Wednesday and Thursday and on Thursday we have continued distributing clothes. However, this month there were less people asking for clothes. During the curfew right before the Ramadan Bayram we have worked in collaboration with St. Antoine Church and provided food vouchers for 30 refugee families with the help of the church. We have also provided food vouchers, medical assistance, cash assistance through our listening center. Istanbul office continues working in collaboration with different church bodies and works in contact with 3 other Caritas offices. Istanbul office values to work in collaboration and continues to make visits to already existing and possible future partners trying to improve its capacity also with the help of Caritas Italiana.

ANATOLIA DIOCESAN OFFICE

In the past month, Caritas Anatolia (CA) helped 325 families in 21 cities. Each family has specific needs therefore CA offered a wide range of support to better serve them. CA distributed to 115 Afghan and Iranian families 101 supermarket coupons (100€) and another 100 coupons were given to Social Services of Iskenderun to support the Ramadan activities. Food support was given also in the form of food bags to 100 Syrian families and 42 Iraqi families. 31 families were helped with their rent, to secure a safe home, and health assistance was provided to 4 families. Education is another fundamental right that was assured through the support of 3 university students and Turkish and English courses to 25 Afghan students in Van.



IZMIR DIOCESAN OFFICE

Emergency response to the population affected by the earthquake in İzmir

After a major earthquake that hit İzmir on the 30th of October 2020, Caritas İzmir launched an RRA (Rapid Response Appeal) that has received sponsorship from CRS, Caritas Spain, Caritas Italiana, and Caritas Japan.

Right after the earthquake, temporary shelters were set up by the Disaster & Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) in 12 areas with a total of 2700 tents, which were then followed by a container houses camp. The immediate needs of people living in these areas were fulfilled by donations of all kinds from the public and private institutions and private donors. Caritas İzmir has contributed to some of those needs by distributing baby formulas, diapers, duvet sets, quilts, winter clothes. However, the situation was quite fluid with needs changing very fast. As the municipality started to place the earthquake victims in temporary and/or permanent houses, this led to further needs such as furniture, housing appliances, etc. In addition, a lot of people lost their jobs, some were dealing with health problems and also some students couldn't continue their online education.

Caritas İzmir needed to adapt to these changes, so, after updating the needs assessment, we made a revision in the budget and we continued our support to the earthquake victims through food vouchers, aid for health expenses, tablets for students and furniture, housing appliances, kitchen utensils, carpets, etc. A total of 1037 earthquake victims have been reached by this project



A STORY FROM OUR COMMUNITY

Fatima's struggles

While working on-site, Caritas İzmir met a displaced family who had to leave their heavily damaged house. Before the disaster, 7 people were living together, a mother, her 3 daughters, and 3 grandchildren. One of the grandchildren is a 15 years old girl, with both mental and physical disabilities, that we will call Fatima. Her mother explained that her condition was the result of unsuccessful brain surgery. Fatima cannot speak, she doesn't have self-care skills and she can just walk unsteadily. Her father abandoned them after the surgery and he does not support them at all. After the earthquake, the family rented an apartment to start a new life. However, the neighbors' complained about Fatima's noise forcing her mother to leave the house and rent a very little basement apartment. Now they are separated from the rest of the family that cannot support them anymore and the mother had to quit her job to take care of her.

Caritas helped them purchase medicines and diapers for Fatima, and has also provided food vouchers, furniture (beds, mattresses, a dressing cabinet), quilts, duvet covers, and pillows to the family. Mother and daughter are living a very difficult life and they still need a lot of support. The real goal would be to help them achieve economic and personal stability which will allow them to live fully their lives. The mother needs to find a new job and to receive support to take care of her child. At the same time, Fatima needs medical support and to exit her social isolation, including fulfilling her right to receive an adequate education.

